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Senate

The Senate met at 10:01 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, a Senator from the State of Missouri.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord, You are good. You chase our enemies into dark places and restrain those who plot against Your providence. No matter how strong evil may seem, O Lord, it is doomed because of Your power.

Strengthen our Nation. Snap the chains that bind it to anything that is not noble and true. Inspire our Senators with Your invincible presence. Help them to look to the hill from whence comes celestial help. Remind them that they are never alone, for You have promised to be with us until time is transformed into eternity.

Help us to remember that neither life nor death, angels nor principalities, powers nor problems, heights nor depths, past nor future, demons nor darkness can separate us from Your wondrous love. Empower us to so live that generations to come will call us blessed. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER S. BOND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC., June 24, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of Rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, a Senator from the State of Missouri, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BOND thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning I again congratulate Chairman WARNER and Senator LEVIN for their efforts throughout the Defense authorization bill. We were able to pass that bill last night. Looking at my notes, we had approximately 175 amendments disposed of over the course of 16 days of consideration and 31 rollcall votes. A lot of hard work, a lot of good negotiation, brought a very good bill, as reflected in the ultimate vote. I do want to thank both the managers who got us through the bill. That was the authorization.

Now we have a Defense appropriations bill ahead of us. Chairman STEVENS is prepared to begin that legislation, and we expect to finish that bill prior to the recess. We will be consulting further with the Democratic leadership, and hopefully we will have that scheduled shortly.

Immediately this morning we will be proceeding to executive session for the consideration of the nomination of one of our former colleagues, Jack Danforth, to be U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that there be 1 hour of debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking member or designees, and that following that time, the Senate proceed to a vote on the nomination; provided further that following the vote, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is my understanding the two leaders do not expect a recorded vote on that.

Mr. FRIST. That is correct. The nomination will not require a rollcall vote, and at the conclusion of the debate, Senator Danforth will be confirmed by voice vote.

In addition, we have the remaining judicial nominations to dispose of. There are four that will be scheduled for votes with no debate necessary. There are two we will lock in for votes following 1 hour of debate, and I expect to ask that consent momentarily. There is also one further nomination that will require a longer debate period, and we are consulting with Members as to whether to schedule that debate and vote.

In addition to these nominations, there are a number of ambassadorships we hope to consider prior to adjourning, although we do not anticipate rollcall votes on these.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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